

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2, 3, 8-12, and 14 without prejudice, amend Claims 1 and 4-5, and add new Claims 15-21 as indicated below. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire having a tread surface having a plurality of main grooves extending straight in a circumferential direction of the tire, land portions extending in the tire circumferential direction being defined by the plurality of main grooves, the land portions each having a ground contact surface comprising a first circular arc having a single curvature radius in tire meridian cross section,

wherein the ground contact surface of at least the land portion which is located second when counted from the outer side of a vehicle when the tire is mounted thereon, is arranged so as to have the first circular arc and at least a second circular arc connected thereto on the vehicle outer side thereof, wherein the circular arc located closer to the vehicle outer side has a smaller curvature radius and is positioned more inwardly away from the tread surface, and wherein the ratio  $d/D$  of the depth  $d$ , measured from a tread surface, of an intersection of the circular arc located closest to the vehicle outer side with a vehicle outer sidewall surface of the second land portion to the groove depth  $D$  of the main groove, measured from a wall of the main groove that faces the vehicle outer sidewall surface, is 0.02 to 0.1, such that the vehicle outer sidewall surface of the second land portion has a height that

is less than that of the wall of the main groove that faces the vehicle outer sidewall surface of the second land portion,

wherein the ratio  $d/W$  of the depth  $d$  to the groove width  $W$  of the main groove facing to the vehicle outer sidewall surface is 0.01 to 0.15; and

wherein the ground contact surface of the second land portion consists of the first circular arc and the second circular arc, and wherein the ratio  $R1/R2$  of the curvature radius  $R1$  of the first circular arc to the curvature radius  $R2$  of the second circular arc is 2 to 10.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~  
claim 1, wherein the ground contact surface of the second land portion consists of the first circular arc, the second circular arc and a third circular arc connected to the second circular arc, and wherein the ratio  $R1/R2$  and the ratio of  $R2/R3$  are 2 to 10, respectively, where  $R1$  is the curvature radius of the first circular arc,  $R2$  is the curvature radius of the second circular arc and  $R3$  is the curvature radius of the third circular arc.

5. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~  
claim 1, wherein the ground contact surface of the second land portion has an inner circular

are connected to the first circular arc on the vehicle inner side thereof, the inner circular arc having a curvature radius smaller than that of the first circular arc.

6. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic tire according to claim 5, wherein the ratio  $d'/D'$  of the depth  $d'$  of an intersection of the inner circular arc with a vehicle inner sidewall surface of the second land portion to the groove depth  $D'$  of the main groove facing to the vehicle inner sidewall surface is 0.01 to 0.1.

7. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic tire according to claim 6, wherein the ratio  $R1/R2'$  of the curvature radius  $R1$  of the first circular arc to the curvature radius  $R2'$  of the inner circular arc is 2 to 10.

8-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of main grooves includes three main grooves, defined as a center main groove, a left main groove and a right main groove;

the three main grooves are separated by land portions, and a land portion is formed in a shoulder region of each of the left main groove and the right main groove; and

the second land portion is adjacent to the land portion of the shoulder region located on the outer side when the tire is mounted on a vehicle.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A pneumatic tire having a tread surface having a plurality of main grooves extending straight in a circumferential direction of the tire, land portions extending in the tire circumferential direction being defined by the plurality of main grooves, the land portions each having a ground contact surface comprising a first circular arc C1 having a single curvature radius in tire meridian cross section,

wherein the ground contact surface of at least the land portion which is located second when counted from the outer side of a vehicle when the tire is mounted thereon, is arranged so as to have the first circular arc C1 and at least a second circular arc C2 connected thereto on the vehicle outer side thereof, wherein the circular arc located closer to the vehicle outer side has a smaller curvature radius and is positioned more inwardly away from the tread surface, and wherein the ratio  $d/D$  of the depth  $d$ , measured from a tread surface, of an intersection of the circular arc located closest to the vehicle outer side with a vehicle outer sidewall surface of the second land portion to the groove depth  $D$  of the main groove, measured from a wall of the main groove that faces the vehicle outer sidewall surface, is 0.02 to 0.1, such that the vehicle outer sidewall surface of the second land portion has a height that

is less than that of the wall of the main groove that faces the vehicle outer sidewall surface of the second land portion, and

wherein the ground contact surface of the second land portion has an inner circular arc C2' connected to the first circular arc C1 on the vehicle inner side thereof, and a third circular arc C3 connected to the second circular arc C2 on a vehicle outer side thereof, and

further wherein  $R1 > R2 > R2' > R3$ , where R1 is the curvature radius of the first circular arc C1; R2 is the curvature radius of the second circular arc C2, R2' is the curvature radius of the inner circular arc C2', and R3 is the curvature radius of the third circular arc C3.

16. (New) A pneumatic tire according to claim 15, wherein the ratio  $d/W$  of the depth  $d$  to the groove width  $W$  of the main groove facing to the vehicle outer sidewall surface is 0.01 to 0.15.

17. (New) A pneumatic tire according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the ground contact surface of the second land portion consists of the first circular arc C1 and the second circular arc C2, and wherein the ratio  $R1/R2$  of the curvature radius R1 of the first circular arc C1 to the curvature radius R2 of the second circular arc C2 is 2 to 10.

18. (New) A pneumatic tire according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the ground contact surface of the second land portion consists of the first circular arc C1, the second circular arc C2 and the third circular arc C3, and wherein the ratio  $R1/R2$  and the ratio of  $R2/R3$  are 2 to 10, respectively.

19. (New) A pneumatic tire according to claim 15, wherein the ratio  $d'/D'$  of the depth  $d'$  of an intersection of the inner circular arc C2' with a vehicle inner sidewall surface of the second land portion to the groove depth  $D'$  of the main groove facing to the vehicle inner sidewall surface is 0.01 to 0.1.

20. (New) A pneumatic tire according to claim 19, wherein the ratio  $R1/R2'$  is 2 to 10.

21. (New) A pneumatic tire according to claim 15, wherein:  
the plurality of main grooves includes three main grooves, defined as a center main groove, a left main groove and a right main groove;

the three main grooves are separated by land portions, and a land portion is formed in a shoulder region of each of the left main groove and the right main groove; and

the second land portion is adjacent to the land portion of the shoulder region located on the outer side when the tire is mounted on a vehicle.